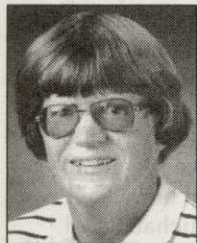


BRIEFS



METGCSA HONORS VITNUM

Dr. Patricia Vittum, program director of the Department of Entomology at the University of Massachusetts,



Dr. Pat Vittum

has been presented the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association's John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. Co-author of the *IPM Handbook for Golf Courses*,

Vittum is well-known for research into the hyperodes weevil. An affiliate of the UMass Cooperative Extension Service, she has been the pesticide coordinator and state liaison representative for the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program for Massachusetts in the 1990s.

HAMILTON JOINS TWINEAGLES

NAPLES, Fla. — John Hamilton has joined the Nicklaus-designed TwinEagles Golf & Country Club as an agronomist. Hamilton has more than 20 years experience. Before joining TwinEagles, he operated a turfgrass consulting service for three years to international golf course clients in China and Guam, and also served as an agronomist with Golden Bear International.

MILLETT ASSUMES MET PRESIDENCY

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Ridgeway Country Club superintendent Earl Millett has taken over the presidency of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MetGCSA). A graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture, Millett has been involved in the MetGCSA for 21 years, the New York State Turfgrass Association, and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, on whose board he serves. He has been at Ridgeway since 1980.

FERTILIZER INSTITUTE ON THE WEB

Washington, D.C.—The Fertilizer Institute has launched its internet web site and they implemented a new logo. The site, located at www.tfi.org on the world wide web, will contain general information about fertilizer for the public as well as specialized news about association activities for TFI members.

"We view the new web site as a means of extending the lines of communication with our membership and the general public," said TFI President Gary D. Meyers.

Golf course 'living lab' Cal State Poly's aim

By DOUG SAUNDERS

POMONA, Calif. — Dealing with society's trash is an issue that draws little attention from the public until a landfill needs to be created or closed down. After operating a 200-acre landfill on campus property since 1957 in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, California State Polytechnic University here hopes to close the landfill and build an 18-hole golf course that will serve as a living laboratory.

The landfill has served two purposes over the last four decades. It has been a repository for the tons of refuse from the growing LA metropolis, and has served as an outdoor lab for waste

management, environmental sciences, engineering, and agriculture.

"The landfill has been very beneficial to the university from not only an economic standpoint, but also as an educational tool," said Ed Barnes, executive director of the Land Lab and Asset Development for Cal Poly Pomona.

At some point landfills do reach capacity and the next question was how to best close this one down. Strict EPA guidelines specify the closure procedures for landfills. The university has decided that, in conjunction with closure and monitoring regulations, creating a golf course can continue to provide economic and educational

benefits into the future.

"Our desire," Barnes said, "is to build an 18-hole course that will generate income through greens fees, provide a recreational outlet for students, be of value to our athletic program, and give more opportunities for internships for our colleges of hotel and restaurant management, turfgrass management, landscape architecture, and bio-sciences."

Cal Poly recently selected Golf Dimensions, a golf course management firm based in Irvine, to help the university through the project's planning and construction phases. Golf Dimensions recently completed the

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NEW ENGLAND TURF CONFERENCE

Wake up to soil acidity tests, Hummel tells superintendents

By MARK LESLIE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Decrying the fact that many of them have no idea how acidic their soil is, Dr. Norm Hummel called on turfgrass managers to establish soil-testing programs "to define the best fertilizer regimes" for their properties.

Speaking at the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference here on March 4, the former Cornell University professor said: "As basic as it is, it's amazing to me how many people don't have an idea of what the pH of their golf course or athletic field is at."

A soil test can address soil acidity and liming requirements, pH reduction, soil phosphorus and potassium, secondary nutrients like calcium and magnesium, and soluble salts for those in coastal areas, said Hummel, who now operates Hummel & Co. in Trumansburg, N.Y.

Calling pH "one of the most basic soil fertility aspects," Hummel said the optimum reading for most cool-season grasses is in a range of 6 to 7.

"One of the reasons is that optimum nutrient availability is found within that slightly acidic range," he said. "When you get into higher pHs, many of the micronutrients are there but tied up in unavailable forms. When you get much below that, nutrients

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Sunlight assessment, other tools taking turf care into 21st century

By MARK LESLIE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Sunlight assessment and digital imaging — two new technologies that are pulling golf superintendents into the computer age — will also help them deal with the difficult task of course renovations, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Golf Association Green Section.

"Frankly, most of the people here have the equipment and capabilities to operate this technology," Dave Oatis, director of the Northeast Region, told the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference here.

Oatis hailed the sunlight-assessment technology developed by Arbor Com Inc. of Toronto area. Company owner Scott Robinson, an arborist from Toronto, developed this tool "and it is mind boggling what they can do with it," Oatis said.

Oatis cited the usefulness of digital imaging as "limited only by your imagination."

"On difficult sites with difficult memberships, and for particularly important trees, you can use [sunlight assessment] to document and quantify how many and which trees need to be removed" to save shaded turfgrass, Oatis said. "You need eight hours of sunlight for healthy turf."

The position of the sun as it rises differs by approximately 22

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GOLF AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston, Conn., is home to alltypes of birds, waterfowl and other creatures.

Aspetuck Valley fulfills Audubon requirements

WESTON, Conn. — Aspetuck Valley Country Club has achieved designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International.

"The membership is very proud that Aspetuck Valley is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course," said superintendent Steven Colangeli, who initiated the program at the club in 1996.

"It's a great feeling to know that a golf course can act as a recreation area for golf as well as a wildlife sanctuary. It's also nice to know that our daily maintenance practices and

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The policy game of golf

By RON DODSON

One of the major problems facing the golf industry today is whether governmental action is the most effective way to protect or restore the environment. Actually, it's a question of whether the public believes governmental action is the only way to protect or restore the environment. To golfers, superintendents and developers, this is an important question because governmental action impacts us all — individually and collectively.

Because the public's awareness of environmental issues and golf courses is at an all-time high, it's timely to take a

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Cal Poly Pomona plans 'living lab' course

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conceptual development plan, which was approved by the Cal Poly Pomona Campus Planning Committee. The plan deals with the various aspects of the project, including market feasibility, financial analysis, environmental resource analysis, design, alternatives, cost estimates and implementation strategy.

The facility will encompass a 340-acre parcel that sits on a hill offering views of the valley and surrounding mountains. Two hundred acres are impacted by the landfill and the remaining acreage was severely affected by grazing and agricultural use. The original concept was to build a nine-hole course over the closed landfill. New plans are to blend 18 holes through the entire site, offering the opportunity to revegetate the property with natural plant materials and encourage the return of wildlife to the area.

The landfill itself is due for closure in July 1999. The Sanitary Districts will be responsible for capping the landfill with 3 feet of clay and monitoring the site for leachate and methane releases for the next 30 years in accordance with EPA regulations. The landfill already produced an ample supply of methane gas that is collected and converted into electricity. All of the landfill's energy needs are generated on site and the excess power is sold to the SoCal Edison power grid.

"The operation of a self-sustaining site such as this is a very positive approach to dealing with waste," Barnes said. "The methane that will be generated by the landfill, even after closure, will be collected and used in an even more efficient manner for the operation of the golf course and its facilities."

Golf course architect Cal Olsen will assist in the course design. One of Olsen's recent projects, Coyote Hills Golf Course, reclaimed an oil-production site operated by Unical Petroleum.

The hope is to begin

construction in 1999, with nine holes and clubhouse ready in the spring of 2000.

Students from the various schools at the university will be directly involved in construction, revegetation and operation of the course.

For students in biological sciences, it is a chance to be

directly involved with recreation of open space and wildlife habitat while managing a closed landfill.

The need for a golf course seems obvious in the growing area of Pomona. The two courses in the area average 100,000 rounds and the analysis estimates that the Cal Poly

course could generate 70,000 to 85,000 rounds annually.

Barnes is beginning the difficult task of obtaining approvals. Public hearings have begun and concerns about golf construction are being heard. The debate becomes more intricate with a landfill course — a topic about which the public is not well educated.

"There is the feeling from some that golf simply is bad and

that the site should be turned into open space," Barnes said. "We are willing to discuss specific concerns about the project, but we hope we can not be bogged down dealing with broad generalizations that have been addressed many times before."

"Our goal is to create a quality golf course that will benefit the university as well as the community and the environment."

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"We chose Providence for its outstanding performance all over the U.S. and particularly in the Northeast. We established greens in the hot, dry summer of '95 and they have performed beautifully. Our new practice putting green was open for play eight weeks after seeding. My membership is very pleased with the quality of our putting surfaces."



Bob Miller —
The Golf Club of Purchase • Purchase, NY



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"Providence has performed as expected; with its upright growth characteristics, fine leaf texture, uniform density and color, it has truly been a winner for us. Since the day we opened, our customers have loved the consistency and smoothness of our putting surfaces."



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"This is my fifth grow in and my first with pure Providence greens. It's a very fine, upright turf. Slightly slower to establish because of our cold and rainy fall, but now that we are maturing it's showing its true colors to be a great putting surface."



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Beating moss

Continued from previous page

had moss, it was spread to other greens within a few years, probably by mowing equipment.

All superintendents considered moss a serious problem. All who used the Dawn treatment in 1997 considered it the best method of control.

"We will continue to correspond with the 'Moss Men' in search of some more answers," Dobie said.